

CLAIMS:

1. A cash handling machine which has a housing, cash receiving means for receiving cash deposited by a machine user, and a cash store located in the housing and thus inaccessible to the user, and from which cash
5 can be dispensed to the user, wherein the machine is switchable in response to an operation external of the housing between a normal mode, in which a credit value is incremented in response to cash received by the receiving means, and a float mode in which cash received by the receiving means is directed to the cash store without giving credit.

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2. A machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein the machine has a cash recognition means operable to determine the authenticity of cash received by the receiving means, and further operable to cause the machine to switch to the float mode in response to the testing of an article of a
15 predetermined type received by the cash receiving means.

3. A machine as claimed in claim 2, wherein the cash recognition means is operable to determine denomination of cash items received by the receiving means during the float mode, and to direct the received items to one
20 of a plurality of storage regions of the cash store, each region being associated with a respective denomination, in dependence upon the results of the determination.

4. A machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein the user-operable means is a keypad which is also operable by the user to select a product to be vended by the machine.

5 5. A machine as claimed in claim 4, including cash recognition means for determining the authenticity and denomination of cash items received by the receiving means, and operable to direct cash items received by the receiving means during the float mode to one of a plurality of storage regions of the cash store, each region being associated with a respective
10 denomination, in dependence upon the results of the determination.

6. A machine as claimed in any preceding claim, the machine storing float levels for respective cash denominations, each float level representing the amount of cash items of the respective denominations to be
15 stored following a float operation, and being further operable during the float mode to provide a display visible externally of the machine indicating the denominations of cash items for which the current stored level is less than the respective float level.

20 7. A machine as claimed in any preceding claim, the machine comprising a further cash store, and being operable in response to a received instruction to discharge cash items from the first-mentioned cash store to the further cash store.

8. A cash handling machine which has a first cash store operable to dispense cash to a user and replenishable by cash received from a user, and a further store, the machine being responsive to an instruction for discharging cash from the first store to the further store until one or more predetermined conditions are met.

9. A machine as claimed in claim 7 or claim 8, wherein the machine has a housing preventing access to the further store, but having an unlockable access means which, upon unlocking, permits removal of the further store from the machine.

10. A machine as claimed in claim 9, wherein said access means provides, upon unlocking, access to the further store but not to the first store.

11. A machine as claimed in claim 9 or claim 10, including means for issuing said instruction in response to unlocking of said access means.

12. A machine as claimed in any one of claims 7 to 10, having means for receiving an instruction issued remotely from the machine for performing said discharging operation.

13. A cash handling machine as claimed in any one of claims 7 to 12, wherein said first store has a plurality of regions each for storing a respective denomination, and wherein said further store has a region within which multiple denominations are stored.